

excitement, which necessitates a temporary suspension of the drug.

In menacing cases of eyeball injuries I believe I have also seen good results from a few daily sweat baths, and this has almost become a routine procedure in instances of this kind.

The space permitted for this paper is, of course, too brief for me to enter fully into the various orthodox methods of caring for ocular traumas, nor is it necessary or desirable, for these details are well understood by you all. I have simply endeavored to discuss with you some of the reasons for endeavoring to save eyes and some of the indications for their removal. In addition to this I have taken the liberty of setting forth to you some particular methods of dealing with important conditions which I have found by personal experience to be most efficacious.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VITAL STATISTICS.\*

By WM. J. G. DAWSON, M. D., Chairman, Eldridge, Cal.

**Y**OUR committee on vital statistics begs leave to submit the following report:

It was the original purpose to take excerpts from the various enactments passed by the legislature at its 36th session. This was found, upon brief investigation, to be impracticable and unsatisfactory, owing to the fact that the law had been so thoroughly changed. We therefore decided to submit in full the new laws governing the subject.

Assembly bill No. 339, introduced by Mr. Waste, relating to the State Board of Health, amends and re-enacts the following upon the subject of vital statistics:

It (the State Board of Health) shall maintain a bureau of vital statistics under the supervision of its executive officer, where shall be collected and recorded all births, marriages and deaths, burials and cremations within the state.

These statistics, together with the number of cases of communicable diseases, and such further comparative statistics and information as may be deemed of value to scientists, the medical profession, the general public and aid in the maintenance of good health conditions, may be published by the board in such manner and at such times as it may deem proper.

It shall have power to prescribe and enforce regulations for the embalming, cremation, burial, disinterment and transportation of the dead. It shall have power to prescribe the form of certificates of births and deaths, and of permits for burials, disinterment, cremation and transportation of the dead, and provide measures for their observance.

Assembly bill No. 346, introduced by Mr. Gates, and passed by the last legislature, covers the whole subject most thoroughly, and is as follows:

SECTION 1. That department of the State Board of Health known as the state bureau of vital statistics, shall provide for and superintend the complete and proper registration of deaths for legal, sanitary and statistical purposes.

SECTION 2. That for the purposes of this act the state shall be divided into registration districts as follows: Each city and county, city and incorporated town, and each county exclusive of the portion included within cities and incorporated towns, shall constitute a primary registration district.

SECTION 3. That the recorder of each city and county, county, city and incorporated town, and each city or town clerk where there is no city or town recorder, shall be the local registrar in and for such primary registration district, and shall perform all the duties of local registrar as hereinafter provided. Each local registrar shall immediately appoint, in writing, a deputy who shall be authorized to act in his

stead in case of absence, death, illness or disability, and when it may appear necessary for the convenience of the people in any county, the local registrar is hereby authorized, with the approval of the state registrar of vital statistics, to appoint one or more proper and competent persons to act as sub-registrars, who shall be authorized to receive certificates of death and to issue burial permits or removal permits in and for such portions of the county as may be designated. Each sub-registrar shall note in legible writing over his signature the date each certificate of death was filed, and shall forthwith forward the certificate to the local registrar of the county, and in all cases before the eighth day of the following month; provided, that all sub-registrars shall be subject to the supervision and control of the state registrar of vital statistics.

SECTION 4. That the body or remains of no person whose death occurs in the state shall be interred, deposited in a vault, grave or tomb, cremated, disinterred or otherwise disposed of, or removed from or into any registration district until a permit for burial, disinterment or removal shall have been properly issued by the registrar of the registration district in which the death occurs. And no such burial or removal permit shall be issued by any registrar until a complete and satisfactory certificate and return of the death has been filed with him, as hereinafter required; provided, that in case of any death outside of the state, where the body is accompanied by a removal or transit permit issued in accordance with the law and the health regulations in force where the death occurred, such removal or transit permit shall be accepted as of the same authority as a permit from the local registrar when such removal or transit permit shall have indorsed thereon the written approval of the state registrar of vital statistics, or when said state registrar otherwise officially notifies the local registrar of his approval.

SECTION 5. Stillborn children, or those dead at birth shall be registered as deaths under this act, and a certificate of death and burial or removal permit in usual form shall be required. The medical certificate of cause of death shall be signed by the attending physician or midwife, and shall state the cause of death as "stillborn," with the cause of the stillbirth, if known; whether a premature birth, and, if born prematurely, the period of utero-gestation in months, if known.

SECTION 6. That the certificate of death shall be of the standard form recommended by the United States Census Office and the American Public Health Association, and shall contain the following items:

(1) Place of death, including state, county, township or town, city or village. If in a city, the ward, street and house number. If in a hospital or other institution, the name of the same to be given instead of the street and house number.

(2) Full name of decedent. If an unnamed child, the surname, preceded by "Unnamed."

(3) Sex.

(4) Color or race—as white, black (negro or negro descent), Indian, Chinese, Japanese or other.

(5) Conjugal condition—as single, married, widowed or divorced.

(6) Date of birth, including the year, month and day.

(7) Age, in years, months and days.

(8) Place of birth; state or foreign country.

(9) Name of father.

(10) Birthplace of father; state or foreign country.

(11) Maiden name of mother.

(12) Birthplace of mother; state or foreign country.

(13) Occupation; the occupation to be reported of any person who had any remunerative employment—women as well as men.

(14) Signature and address of informant.

(15) Date of death, including the year, month and day.

\* Presented to the House of Delegates at the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the State Society, Riverside, April, 1905.

(16) Statement of medical attendance on decedent, fact and time of death, including the time last seen alive.

(17) Cause of death, including the primary and immediate causes, and contributory causes or complications, if any, and the duration of each.

(18) Signature and address of physician or official making the medical certificate.

(19) Special information concerning deaths in hospitals and institutions and of persons dying away from home, including the former or usual residence, length of time at place of death, and place where the disease was contracted.

(20) Place of burial or removal.

(21) Date of burial or removal.

(22) Signature and address of undertaker.

(23) Official signature of registrar, with date when certificate was filed, and registered number.

The certificate shall be written legibly in permanent black ink, typewritten or printed, and no certificate shall be held to be complete and correct that does not supply all of the items of information specified above or satisfactorily account for the omission of any of said items.

The personal and statistical particulars (items 1 to 13), or such other items as shall be required by the state registrar, shall be authenticated by the signature of the informant, who may be any competent person acquainted with the facts.

The statement of facts relating to the disposition of the body shall be signed by the undertaker or person acting as such.

The medical certificate shall be made and signed by the physician, if any, last in attendance on the deceased, who shall specify the time in attendance, the time he last saw the deceased alive, and the hour of the day at which death occurred. He shall further state the cause of death so as to show the course of disease or sequence of causes resulting in death, giving the primary and immediate causes, and contributing causes, if any, and the duration of each. Indefinite and unsatisfactory terms indicating only symptoms of disease or conditions resulting from disease will not be held sufficient for issuing a burial or removal permit, and any certificate containing only such terms, as defined by the state registrar, shall be returned to the physician for correction or definition. Causes of death which may be the result of either disease or violence shall be carefully defined; and, if from violence, its nature shall be stated, and whether accidental, suicidal or homicidal. For cause of deaths in hospitals, institutions or away from home, the physician shall furnish the information required under this head, and shall state where, in his opinion, the disease was contracted. The cause of death and all other facts required shall in all cases be stated in accordance with the instructions and directions of the state registrar.

SECTION 7. In case of any death occurring without medical attendance, it shall be the duty of the undertaker to notify the registrar of such death, and when so notified the registrar shall inform the local health officer, and refer the case to him for immediate investigation and certification prior to issuing the permit; provided, that when the local health officer is not a qualified physician, or when there is no such official, and only in such cases, the registrar is authorized to make the certificate and return from the statement of relatives or other persons having adequate knowledge of the facts; provided further, that if the circumstances of the case render it probable that the death was caused by unlawful or suspicious means, the registrar shall then refer the case to the coroner for his investigation and certification, and the coroner shall, within three days after the inquest, furnish the local registrar where such death occurs a certificate in form and substance as required by the state registrar, and containing as many of the facts required by this act as can be ascertained. Said local

registrar shall then forthwith transmit such certificate to the state registrar, retaining a copy thereof on file in his office.

SECTION 8. The undertaker, or person acting as undertaker, shall be responsible for obtaining and filing the certificate of death with the registrar and securing a burial or removal permit prior to any disposition of the body. He shall obtain the personal and statistical particulars required from the person best qualified to supply them, over the signature and address of his informant. He shall then present the certificate to the attending physician, if any, or to the health officer or coroner, as directed by the registrar, for the medical certificate of the cause of death and other particulars necessary to complete the record, as specified in the preceding section. And he shall then state the facts required relative to the date and place of burial, over his signature, and with his address, and present the completed certificate to the registrar within the time limit, if any, designated by the local board of health for the issuance of a burial or removal permit. The undertaker shall deliver the burial permit to the sexton or person in charge of the premises before interring the body, or attach it to the box containing the corpse, when shipped by any transportation company, to accompany same to destination, when it shall be accepted by the sexton as authority for the interment of the body.

SECTION 9. It shall be the duty of the local registrar to supply blank forms of certificates to such persons as require them. He shall carefully examine each certificate when presented for record, to see that it has been made out in accordance with the provisions of this act and the instructions of the state registrar, and if any certificate is incomplete or unsatisfactory it shall be his duty to call attention to the defects in the return, and to withhold issuing the burial or removal permit until it is corrected. He shall then number them in consecutive order, beginning with number one for the first death in each calendar year, and sign his name as registrar in attest of the date of filing in his office. If the certificate is properly executed and complete, he shall then issue a burial or removal permit to the undertaker; provided, that in case the death occurred from some disease that is held by the State Board of Health to be infectious, contagious or communicable and dangerous to the public health, no permit for the removal or other disposition of the body shall be granted by the registrar except under such conditions as may be prescribed by the state and local boards of health. He shall also make a complete and accurate copy of each certificate registered by him, upon a form identical with the original certificate, to be filed and permanently preserved in his office as the local record of such death, in such manner as directed by the state registrar. He shall, on or before the 8th day of each month, transmit to the state registrar all original certificates registered by him during the preceding month. If no deaths occurred in any month, he shall, on or before the 8th day of the following month, report that fact to the state registrar in such manner as the state registrar shall direct.

SECTION 10. If the interment or other disposition of the body is to be made in the registration district in which the death occurred, the wording of the burial permit may be limited to a statement by the registrar, and over his signature, that a satisfactory certificate of death having been filed with him, as required by law, permission is granted to inter, remove or otherwise dispose of the body of the deceased, stating the name, age, sex and cause of death, and other necessary details, upon the form prescribed by the state registrar. In case the interment or other disposition of the body is to be made in some registration district other than that in which the death occurred, a complete copy of the certificate of death shall be attached to and made a part of the permit.

SECTION 11. No sexton or person in charge of any

premises in which interments are made shall inter or permit the interment of any body unless it is accompanied by a burial, removal or transit permit as herein provided. Each sexton or person in charge of any burial ground shall indorse upon the permit the date of interment, over his signature, and shall return all permits so indorsed to the local registrar of his district within one day from the date of interment. He shall also keep a record of all interments made in the premises under his charge, stating the name of the deceased person, place of death, date of burial and name and address of the undertaker, which record shall at all times be open to public inspection.

SECTION 12. The state registrar shall prepare a sample form and blank for all registrars for use in registering, recording and preserving the returns or in otherwise carrying out the purposes of this act, and shall prepare and issue such detailed instructions as may be required to secure the uniform observance of its provisions and the maintenance of a perfect system of registration. No other forms of blanks shall be used than those prescribed by the state registrar. He shall carefully examine the certificates received monthly from the local registrars, and if any such are incomplete or unsatisfactory, he shall require such further information to be furnished as may be necessary to make the record satisfactory. All physicians, informants or undertakers connected with the case, and all other persons having knowledge of the facts, are hereby required to furnish such information as they may possess regarding any death, upon demand of the state registrar, in person, by mail or through the local registrar. He shall further arrange, bind and permanently preserve the certificates in a systematic manner, and shall prepare and maintain a comprehensive index of all deaths registered, showing the name of deceased, place and date of death, number of certificate and the volume in which it is contained. He shall inform all registrars what diseases are to be considered as infectious, contagious or communicable and dangerous to the public health, as decided by the State Board of Health, in order that when deaths occur from such diseases proper precautions may be taken to prevent the spreading of dangerous diseases, and all rules and regulations made by him for carrying out and enforcing the purposes of this act shall, when promulgated, have the same force and effect as if enacted by law.

SECTION 13. Whenever it may be alleged that the facts are not correctly stated in any certificate of death theretofore registered, the local registrar shall require a deposition under oath to be made by the person asserting the fact, to be supported by the depositions of two or more credible persons having knowledge of the facts, setting forth the changes necessary to make the record correct. Having received such depositions, he shall file them, and shall then draw a line through the incorrect statement or statements in the certificate, without erasing them, and make the necessary corrections, noting on the margin of the certificate his authority for so doing, and transmit the deposition, attached to the original certificate, when making his regular monthly returns to the state registrar. If the correction relates to a certificate previously returned to the state registrar, he shall transmit the deposition forthwith to the state registrar. If the correction is first made upon the original certificate on file in the state bureau of vital statistics, the state registrar shall transmit a certified copy of the original certificate, corrected as above, to the local registrar, who shall thereupon substitute such certified copy for the copy of the certificate in his records. All such corrections and marginal notes referring to them shall be legibly written in ink, type-written or printed.

SECTION 14. Each local registrar shall be entitled to be paid the sum of not exceeding twenty-five cents for each death certificate properly and completely made out and registered with him, and by him re-

turned to the state registrar on or before the eighth day of the following month, which sum shall cover and include the making out of the burial permit and the copy of the certificate to be filed and preserved in his office. And in case no deaths were registered during any month, the local registrars shall be entitled to a sum not exceeding twenty-five cents for each report to that effect, promptly made in accordance with the directions of the state registrar; provided, however, that all such compensations for such services shall be fixed by the Board of Supervisors, City Council or other governing body of such local registration district.

All amounts payable to registrars under the provisions of this act shall be paid by the treasurer or other lawful officer out of the funds of each registration district, upon warrants drawn by the local auditor or other proper local officer of such district, which warrants shall specify the number of certificates properly registered and reports promptly returned where no deaths are registered, with the amount due for each; provided, however, that no warrant shall be issued to any local registrar, or, if issued, shall be paid where notice is previously given by the state registrar to the auditor, treasurer or other proper officer of such registration district that the local registrar has failed to comply with the rules and regulations of the state bureau of vital statistics and the instructions of the state registrar.

SECTION 15. The state registrar shall, upon receipt, furnish any applicant a certified copy of the record of any death registered under provisions of this act, for the making and certification of which he shall be entitled to a fee of fifty cents, to be paid by the applicant. And any such copy of the record of a death, when properly certified by the state registrar to be a true copy thereof, shall be prima facie evidence in all courts and places of the facts therein stated. For any search of the files and records, when no certified copy is made, the state registrar shall be entitled to a fee of fifty cents for each hour or fractional hour of time of search, to be paid by the applicant. And the state registrar shall keep a true and correct account of all fees by him received under these provisions, and turn the same over to the state treasurer.

(To be continued.)

#### Certificates Revoked.

The certificates of O. C. Joslen, H. McGregory Wilson and L. H. Meadows, were revoked by the board December 23, 1905, for unprofessional conduct, viz., conviction of an offense involving moral turpitude, in the U. S. District Court, this city, in May, 1905. The offense consisted in sending through the mails a printed circular containing information as to the means of preventing conception and an offer to perform an abortion. The evidence was secured by a postoffice inspector and detective. Joslen is the notorious practitioner of Kearny and Market streets. The cases in the Judicial Court were conducted by U. S. Assistant District Attorney McKinley. The jurors were out but five minutes; the fines imposed were from three to five hundred dollars. The defense made by the attorneys for their defendants, before the board, "that this offense does not involve moral turpitude," made me blush for my profession. The time for appeal in the U. S. Courts is six months, and the board was lenient enough to allow this time to run out before passing judgment. The cases were tried by the board last August.

W. C. TAIT,  
Attorney for the Board of Examiners.

Dr. William Fitch Cheney has moved his offices from 906 Polk street to the Shreve building, corner of Post street and Grant avenue.